GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:988
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
Research in Polar Regions
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to focus in arctic region for more research and studies about climate changes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government proposes to purchase ice breakers and polar vessels for more exploration in both North and South Pole regions;

(d) If so, the details thereof, and the funds allocated by the Government for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI. Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes, Madam.
(b) Considering the need for trans-hemispheric studies focusing on climate variability and change, in 2007 the Ministry of Earth Sciences decided to dovetail the country's scientific endeavour in the Antarctic region with some major long-term scientific initiatives in the Svalbard area of the Arctic. Many long-term scientific programmes in the frontier areas of climate change, glaciology, terrestrial and aquatic ecology and atmospheric sciences have been initiated by the Indian scientists in the Arctic region. To facilitate the studies, a permanent station "Himadri" was set up at the International Arctic Research facilities at Ny-Ã…lesund on the Spitsbergen Island of Svalbard, Norway. A research project for 'Long −term monitoring of Kongsfjorden system (Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, Norway) of Arctic region for climate change studies' was initiated and multi-sensor mooring system in the Arctic at a water depth of 190 m in the Kongsfjorden has been deployed.
(c) Yes, Madam.
(d) The first tender process for identification of shipbuilder could not be concluded into contract and re-tender process has been initiated. Earlier, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 29th October 2014 approved the acquisition of a Polar Research Vessel at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1051.13 crore.